

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 IGA-01 OMB-01

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R 171530Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1316

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PL480 TITLE I PROGRAM FOR GUINEA --FY 1976 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) CONAKRY A-64, SEPT 4 1975; B) CONAKRY 1780; C) STATE 247915

1. BEGIN SUMMARY.EMBASSY, WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND GUINEAN GOVERNMENT ALL DESIRE TO ADVANCE PL480 TITLE I CYCLE BY ABOUT 100 DAYS THIS FISCAL YEAR. EMBASSY WISHES ESTABLISH AND EXECUTE AN AGREED, LOGICAL US NEGOTIATING STRATEGY. WE MUST GET UNDERWAY NOW TO REALIZE THESE OBJECTIVES. IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CABLE KNOWN OR ANTICIPATED COMMODITY AVAILABILITIES FOR FY-76 TITLE I SALES. END SUMMARY.

2. TITLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUINEA HAVE USUALLY STREATCHED INTO MAY AND EVEN JUNE AT CONSIDERABLE COST IN TIME, COHERENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS. IF FY-76 AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY WE WILL OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS SACRIFICED IN RECENT YEARS. USG WILL BE ABLE MAINTAIN BETTER CONTROL OVER NEGOTIATIONS, AVOIDING DISRUPTIVE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AT LAST MINUTE WITH GOG MINISTERIAL DELEGATION. MORE ORDERLY SHIPPING SCHEDULES CAN BE ARRANGED. EARLIER DELIVERIES WILL AVOID THE SEVERE COMMODITY HANDLING PROBLEMS OF THE RAINY SEASON AND WILL ENLARGE OUR POLITICAL IMPACT.

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3. EMBASSY ANNUAL ASSESSMENT (REF A) DEFINED POLICY SETTING FOR TITLE I PROGRAM. TIME IS NOW RIPE FOR ACTION. GOG HAS IMPROVED PERFORMANCE IN ELIMINATING PAYMENT ARREARAGES TO USG, IN PART DUE TO GREATER GUINEAN EFFORT AND IN PART DUE TO EMBASSY CAMPAIGN TO RATIONALIZE US AGENCY COLLECTION PROCEDURES. USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN FULLY SATISFIED. AS NOTED BY AMBASSADOR BAH (REF C), GOG HAS DEVOTED MAXIMUM RESOURCES TO FOOD PRODUCTION CAMPAIGN. ALTHOUGH FIGURES ARE SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE, EMBASSY BELIEVES RICE PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED.

4. HOWEVER, STUDENT-BASED PRODUCTION BRIGADES ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR MARKET-ORIENTED AGRICULTURAL POLICY. GUINEA SHOULD BE SELF SUFFICIENT IN RICE. AS GENERAL NEGOTIATION POSTURE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT US DECREASE PROVISION OF IMPORT COMPETITIVE COMMODITIES IN ORDER TO FORCE GOG TO RECOGNIZE DYSFUNCTIONAL NATURE OF ITS AGRICULTURAL POLICY. BELIEVE US CAN OBTAIN REQUISITE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE, AND ALSO ACHIEVE REDUCTION OF GOG DEPENDENCE UPON PL480, BY MODIFYING COMMODITY COMPOSITION OF FY-76 PROGRAM. AMONG REQUESTED COMMODITIES ONLY RICE IS COMPETITIVE WITH DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. EMBASSY PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN RICE DELIVERIES BUT RELATIVE RESPONSIVENESS TO GOG REQUESTS IN SOME OTHER COMMODITY AREAS. FOR INSTANCE, WOULD CONSIDER DIVERSIFYING FY-76 PROGRAM TO INCLUDE MODEST AMOUNTS VEGETABLE OIL AND NON-FAT DRY MILK, BOTH INCLUDED IN GOG REQUEST LIST (REF B).

5. AS FIRST STEP, REQUEST EARLIEST INDICATION OF WHICH COMMODITIES ON GOG LIST ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PL480 SALES. AS SECOND STEP, EMBASSY WILL RECOMMEND COMMODITY ALLOCATION AND NEGOTIATING STRATEGY. WE WOULD THEN APPRECIATE RECEIPT NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT DELAY.
HARROP

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